

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01032 181229Z

53

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-03 SP-02

L-01 PRS-01 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 IGA-01

SAM-01 SAB-01 EB-03 /045 W
----- 100149

O 181131Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2997

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USDEL ASWAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1032

LIMDIS

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SY, US

SUBJECT: REPORTED SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION TO SLASH AID FOR SYRIA

REF: A. STATE 058898; B. STATE 054526

1. I WAS DISMAYED TO LEARN THIS MORNING FIRST FROM RADIO ISRAEL AND THEN THROUGH FRONTPAGE OF DAMASCUS PRESS OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE THE MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND (MESRF) FROM \$100 MILLION TO \$25 MILLION. IT HAS BEEN UNDERSTOOD BY SARG SINCE MESRF WAS FIRST CONCEIVED THAT MOST OF THESE FUNDS WERE EARMARKED FOR SYRIA. CONSIDER THIS RECOMMENDED REDUCTION, IF CARRIED OUT, WILL SERIOUSLY HAMPER FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-SYRIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01032 181229Z

2. OVER COURSE OF PAST YEAR U.S. AND SYRIA HAVE WORKED

INTENSIVELY TOGETHER TO FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE SECRETARY'S PEACE-MAKING EFFORTS HAVE BEEN, OF COURSE, OF OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE TO OUR RELATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME SYRIA HAS SOUGHT OUR VIEWS ON ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN ACCESS TO U.S. TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMIC PLANNING AND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. AFTER SEVERAL VISITS BY AID OFFICIALS AT END OF 1974 AND EARLY THIS YEAR, WE IDENTIFIED TOGETHER A LIST OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS INDICATING WHERE SYRIA COULD MOST BENEFIT FROM U.S. ASSISTANCE IN HELPING TO ACCELERATE SYRIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IN WITNESS TO ITS DESIRE TO RAPIDLY BUILD A NEW RELATIONSHIP, WHEN FIRST \$25 MILLION BECAME AVAILABLE UNDER CONTINUING RESOLUTION AUTHORITY FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS, SARG IN LESS THAN ONE WEEK'S TIME NEGOTIATED AND AGREED TO THREE SEPARATE AID PROJECTS TOTALING FULL \$25 MILLION.

3. SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH SARG ALL POINT TO ITS CONTINUING INTEREST IN U.S. TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. SARG AT HIGHEST LEVELS HAS INDICATED ITS PLANS TO DEVELOP WITH US ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION ACTIVITIES FOR FY 1975 AND 1976, EVEN IN EXCESS OF ANTICIPATED AVAILABILITIES. HOWEVER, U.S. AND SARG EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD HAVE BEEN HAMPERED BY LACK OF FULL U.S. APPROPRIATION SO FAR IN FY 75, INDICATING PRECISE AMOUNTS OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

4. IN MY OPINION ONE OF THE MOST SOLID PROOFS OF SYRIAN LEADERSHIP'S INTEREST IN PEACE LIES IN THE DEEP DEDICATION OF SARG'S LEADERSHIP TO DEVELOP THEIR COUNTRY AND PROVIDE A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING FOR THE SYRIAN PEOPLE. AT THIS JUNCTURE OUR DECISION TO SLASH THE FUNDS AVAILABLE UNDER THE MESR FUND WILL SCARCELY BE SEEN AS USG ENCOURAGEMENT TO THIS LEADERSHIP TO FOCUS ON THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT. IT WILL CERTAINLY WORK COUNTER TO SARG'S WILLINGNESS TO ENTRUST ANY SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO U.S. ADVICE OR SUPPORT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 01032 181229Z

5. REQUEST WASHINGTON'S LATEST ADVICE ON THIS MATTER SO THAT WE CAN ADVISE SARG ACCORDINGLY. RECOMMEND EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO RESTORE FULL AMOUNT OF FY 75 FUNDS FOR USE IN SYRIA PROGRAM. ALSO SUGGEST SUBSTANCE THIS MESSAGE BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN INOUE AS WELL AS TO SENATOR MATHIAS, WHO HAS VISITED SYRIA RECENTLY AND WHO HEARD DIRECTLY FROM MINECON IMADI HOW MUCH SYRIA APPRECIATED AND NEEDS INVOLVEMENT

U.S. IN ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC01032
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750094-0072
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750342/aaaablat.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 058898, 75 STATE 054526
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION TO SLASH AID FOR SYRIA
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006